

REMARKS

Reconsideration and entry of the above amendments and these remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-9 are pending.

A Request for Continued Examination accompanies this Amendment.

The objection to claims 8 and 9 has been removed by amending the preamble thereof.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Underwood et al. in view of Kersey. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to define the embodiment more clearly and thus, obviate the rejection. In particular, claim 1 as amended recites a process for locating and measuring deformations in soil or infill associated with a civil engineering structure by providing a geosynthetic fabric having yarns and applying the geosynthetic fabric in the said structure or on soil under the said structure. Claim 4 as amended recites a geosynthetic fabric for locating and measuring deformations in soil or infill associated with a civil engineering structure, with the fabric having yarns.

Underwood et al. discloses a “ribbon cable” having optical fibers. This is not a fabric having yarns and optical fibers as now claimed.

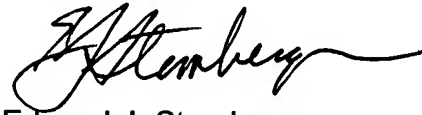
In addition, neither Kersey nor Underwood defines an arrangement of Bragg gratings among at least two optical fibers, according to a specified set or mathematical rules taking into consideration both the repartition of the Bragg gratings along each optical fiber and between several optical fibers. In Kersey, the different repartitions of “Fiber Bragg Grating partial reflectors” defined in the several embodiments are only repartitions along one optical fiber.

According to the claimed embodiment, with an arrangement of Bragg gratings among at least two optical fibers, it is possible to detect and locate a deformation in a large area, at a much larger scale than with a system of detection limited to only one optical fiber.

For these reasons, the rejection of claim 1 and 4 and the claims that depend should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Stemberger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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